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Thinking Outside the Building: Developing a Library Ambassador Program Across Campus(es)

Lydia C. Gwyn

East Tennessee State University, Sherrod Library, gwynlc@etsu.edu

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THINKING OUTSIDE THE BUILDING:

DEVELOPING A LIBRARY AMBASSADOR PROGRAM ACROSS CAMPUS(ES)



A PEER-MENTORING APPROACH TO RESEARCH HELP

WHAT IS A LIBRARY AMBASSADOR?

Li.brar.y Am.bas.sa.dor: (noun)

an undergraduate student hired by the library who has received two semesters of information literacy and research skills instruction and spends their subsequent semesters deployed in academic buildings and computer labs across campus helping students with their research.



WHY A PEER LEARNING MODEL?

- Peer learning programs have proven successful in tutoring centers & elsewhere in the university
- People from similar social groups, not professionals, help each other to learn and in turn help themselves
- Trained undergraduates are ideal for delivering general reference and information literacy instruction
- Student engagement, library use, and library instruction all have positive impacts on retention; peer learning addresses each of these areas



The advantages of peer learning also include opportunities for empathy, bonding, and lowered anxiety

Program Timeline

SPRING-SUMMER
2017



Plan

- How many ambassadors?
- What type of students?
- What interview questions to ask?
- How much training?

FALL
2017



Hire & Train

- Hire Ambassadors
- Begin first semester of information literacy instruction

SPRING
2018



Train & Specialize

- Last semester of information literacy instruction
- Ambassadors begin to specialize in the databases of their respective majors
- Reach out to satellite campuses about hiring ambassadors

FALL
2018

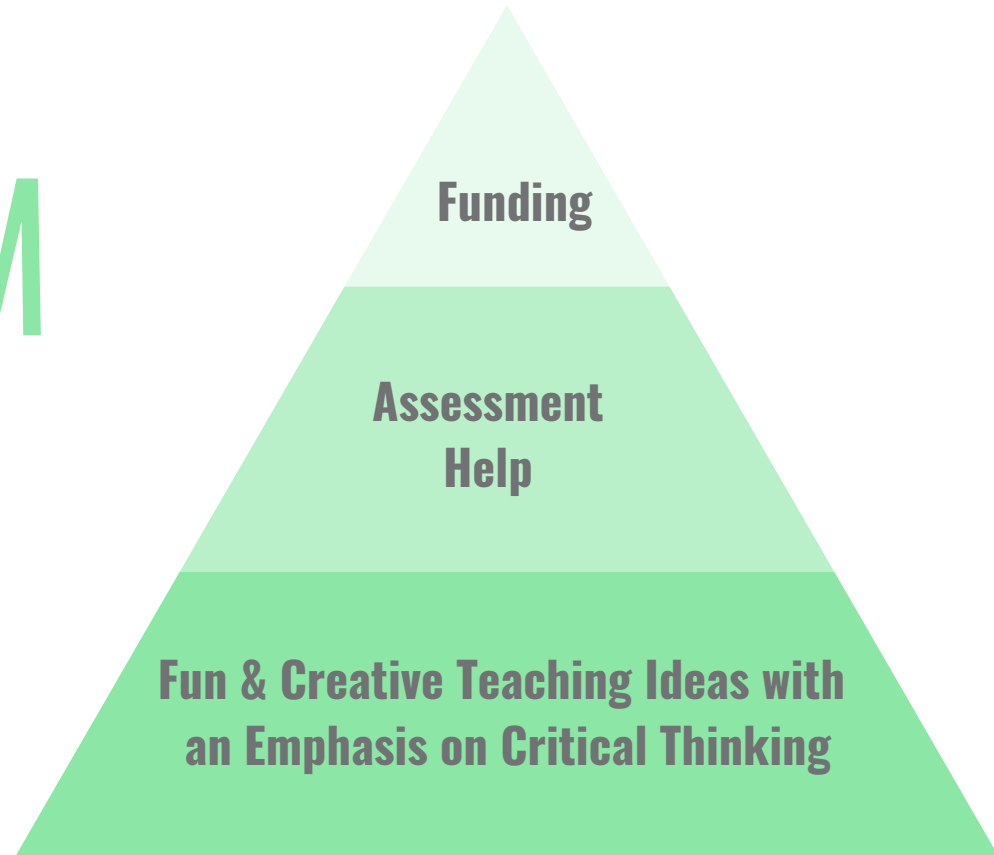


Implement

- Ambassadors deployed across campus to help students with research
- Hire 23 new ambassadors for main campus, hire ambassadors at satellite campuses & begin first semester of information literacy instruction

INtopFORM

Quality Enhancement Plan
Fellowship

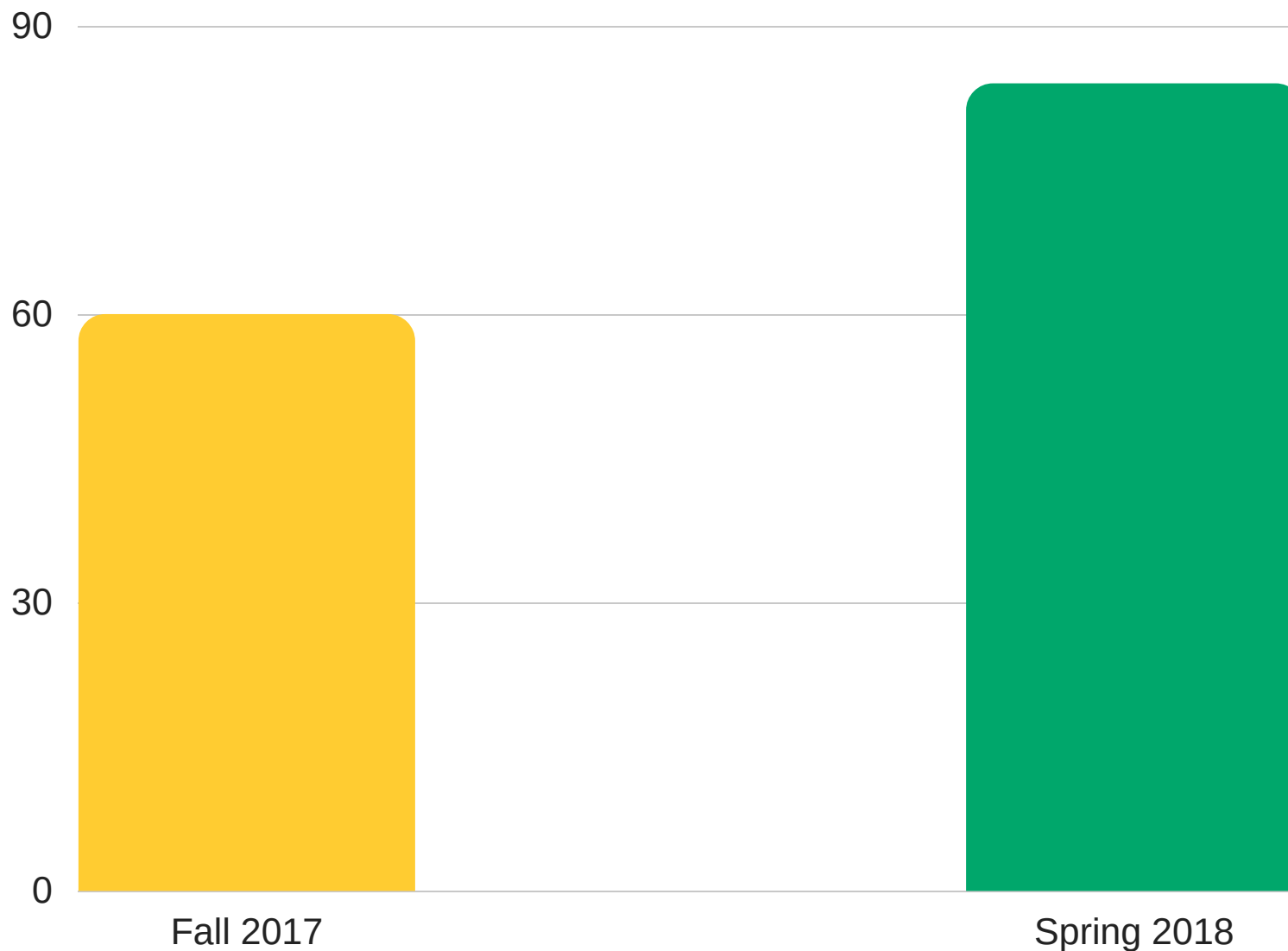


Pre and Post Assessment

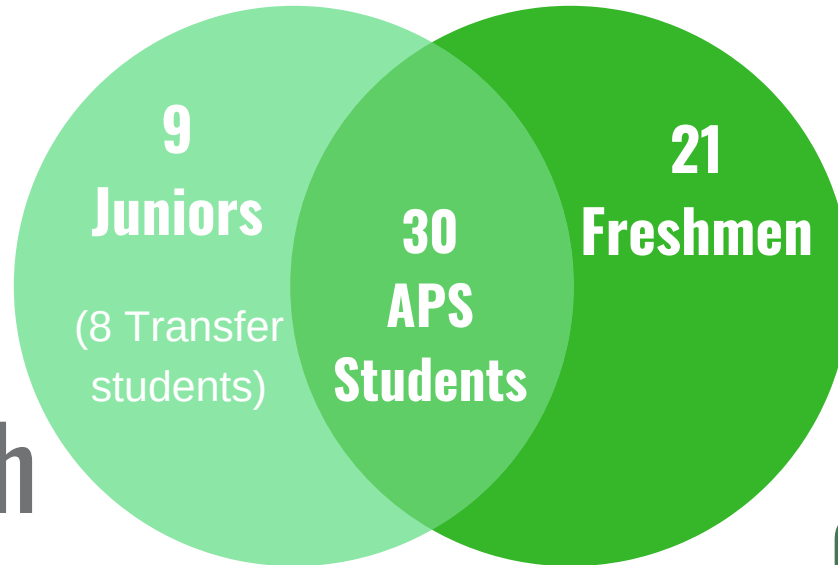
- 12 multiple choice questions
- 4 scenarios--short answer
- All questions based on research and information literacy skills
- Pre-assessment is given the first day of training
- Post-assessment is give the last day of training



Assessment Results for Pilot Group of Library Ambassadors



WHO ARE THE AMBASSADORS?



Public Health

Criminal Justice

Media & Communications

Chemistry

English

Accounting

Business

Math

Art

Social Work

Biology

Physical Education

Dental Hygiene

Education

Physics

Nursing

Health Science

Interior Architecture

Interdisciplinary Studies

Pre-Occupational Therapy

Public Relations



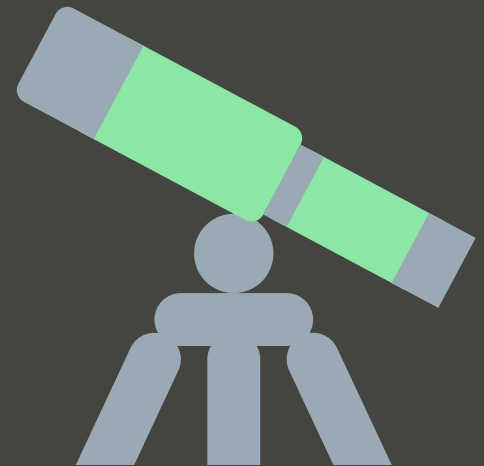
WHAT ARE THEY LEARNING?



- Develop research questions & identify keywords/search terms
- Use OneSearch, databases, Google Scholar, and the Web to find quality sources of information
- Evaluate sources of information
- Differentiate between popular, scholarly, trade sources & primary, secondary, & tertiary sources
- Specialize in the databases of their field

Future Vision

- Ambassadors stationed in every academic building, residence hall, and computer lab
- Ambassador programs at all satellite campuses
- Collaborate with area community colleges to hire transfer students into the program
- Collaborate with the CFAA to cross-train ambassadors and tutors in both areas
- Target students on academic probation: hire them as ambassadors



**THANK
YOU FOR
LISTENING!**

